Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 4 further comprising specifying a security policy setting, wherein the rewriting of the references to the sources of content is in accordance with the security policy setting.

Claim 3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method for blocking dereferencing elements in a message, the method comprising:
accepting a source file for the message;
identifying one or more elements within the message source file, wherein the elements specify references to sources of content to be dereferenced upon rendering of the message;
rewriting the references to the sources of content of the elements identified in the message source, wherein the rewriting of the references to the sources of content comprises replacing the reference to the source of content with a reference to an alternate source file;
passing the message source to a message display output; and
rendering the message in the message display.

Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the alternate source file is a transparent image file.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 4 wherein the message source file is a Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML) document.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 4 wherein the message display is an HTML rendering display.

Claims 8-13. (cancelled)

Claim 14. (currently amended) ~~A method for blocking dereferencing elements in a message, the method comprising:~~
~~accepting a source file for the message;~~
~~rendering the file in a first message display output;~~
~~grouping one or more elements within the rendered message into security level groups;~~
~~rewriting the elements to be processed through a protocol handler;~~
~~passing the message source to a second message display output; and~~
~~rendering the message in the second message display~~ The method of claim 17 wherein the message source file is an HTML document.

Claim 15. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 14~~ claim 18 further comprising specifying a security policy setting, wherein the processing of the elements by the protocol handler is in accordance with the security policy setting.

Claim 16. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 15 wherein the processing of the elements by the protocol handler comprises redirecting to an original target destination~~ claim 17 further comprising specifying a security policy setting, wherein the processing of the elements by the protocol handler is in accordance with the security policy setting.

Claim 17. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 15~~ A method for blocking dereferencing elements in a message, the method comprising:
accepting a source file for the message;
rendering the file in a first message display output;
grouping one or more elements within the rendered message into security level groups;
rewriting the elements to be processed through a protocol handler, wherein the processing of the elements by the protocol handler comprises returning information indicating that a target destination is not available;
passing the message source to a second message display output; and

      rendering the message in the second message display.

Claim 18. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 15~~ A method for blocking dereferencing elements in a message, the method comprising:

      accepting a source file for the message;

      rendering the file in a first message display output;

      grouping one or more elements within the rendered message into security level groups;

      rewriting the elements to be processed through a protocol handler, wherein the processing of the elements by the protocol handler comprises redirecting to an alternate source file;

      passing the message source to a second message display output; and

      rendering the message in the second message display.

Claim 19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the alternate source file is a transparent image file.

Claim 20. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 14~~ claim 18 wherein the message source file is an HTML document.

Claim 21. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 14~~ claim 18 wherein the first and second message displays are HTML rendering displays.

Claim 22. (currently amended) ~~A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for blocking dereferencing elements in a message, the method comprising:~~

      ~~accepting a source file for the message;~~

      ~~rendering the file in a first message display output;~~

      ~~grouping one or more elements within the rendered message into security level groups;~~

      ~~rewriting the elements to be processed through a protocol handler;~~

      ~~passing the message source to a second message display output; and~~

      ~~rendering the message in the second message display~~ The method of claim 17 wherein the first and second message displays are HTML rendering displays.

Claims 23-25. (canceled)

Claim 26. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 24~~ A method for blocking dereferencing elements in a message, the method comprising:

accepting a source file for the message;

rendering the file in a first message display output;

grouping one or more elements within the rendered message into security level groups;

rewriting the elements to be processed through a protocol handler, wherein the processing of the elements by the protocol handler comprises returning information indicating that a target destination is not available;

passing the message source to a second message display output;

rendering the message in the second message display;

combining a base Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and a relative URL into a full URL;

passing the full URL to be processed to a protocol handler; and

specifying a security policy setting, wherein the processing of the elements by the protocol handler is in accordance with the security policy setting.

Claim 27. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 24~~ claim 26 wherein the processing of the elements by the protocol handler comprises redirecting to an alternate source file.

Claim 28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the alternate source file is a transparent image file.

Claim 29. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 23~~ claim 26 wherein the message source file is an HTML document.

Claim 30. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 23~~ claim 26 wherein the first and second message displays are HTML rendering displays.

Claim 31. (canceled)